

REMARKS

I. Introduction

With the addition of new claims 14 to 17 and the cancellation herein without prejudice of claim 10, claims 6 to 9 and 11 to 17 are pending and being considered in the present application, since claims 1 to 5 were previously canceled. No new matter has been added. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claim 11 is allowed. In this regard, the Examiner will note that claim 8 has been amended herein without prejudice to depend from claim 11, so that claim 8 is also in condition for immediate allowance.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 12 and 13 are allowable. In this regard, the Examiner will note that claim 12, from which claim 13 depends, has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of its base claim. The Examiner will further note that claim 6, from which claims 7 and 9 depend, has been amended herein without prejudice to include subject matter analogous to that of claim 12. Accordingly, claims 6, 7, 9, 12, and 13 are in condition for immediate allowance.

The remaining rejected claim has been canceled herein without prejudice thereby rendering moot the remaining claim rejections.

New claims 14 to 17 have been added. Claims 14 to 17 do not add new matter and are supported by the present application, including specification, as originally filed. Claim 14 depends from claim 6 and is therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 6. Claims 15 and 16 depend from claim 11 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 11. Claim 17 includes subject matter analogous to that of claim 11 and is therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 11.

Accordingly, all of pending claims 6 to 9 and 11 to 17 are allowable.

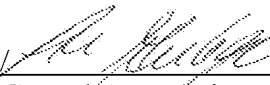
Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of the claims as previously presented in a continuation patent application. Further, any disclaimer that may have occurred during the prosecution of this application is expressly rescinded as regards any subsequently filed patent application.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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